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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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EXAMINER

CRENSHAW, MARVIN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/657,815

Applicant(s)

OKUBO ET AL.

Examiner

Marvin P. Crenshaw

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 11-14, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 11-14, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8,14,17 and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beltzung et al. in view of Okubo et al. (5,832,824).

Beltzung et al. teaches a cylindrical printing blanket (Fig. 2) comprising a sheet-like blanket being bonded to an outer surface of said sleeve, said sheet like blanket comprising in order a first fabric layer (6) having a thickness (See col. 4, lines 1-5) in the range of 0.1 to 1.5 mm, a compressive layer (5), a 2nd fabric layer having a thickness (See col. 4, lines 1-5) in the range of 0.1 to 1.5 mm and a surface printing layer (1). However, Batti et al. doesn't teach a seamless sleeve having a sheet-like blanket being bonded by a spirally wound threaded layer. Okubo et al. teaches use of a seamless sleeve having a spirally wound threaded layer (32a) to bond together layers of a blanket. It would have been obvious to modify Beltzung et al. to have a seamless sleeve having a sheet-like blanket cylinder bonded by a threaded layer as taught by Okubo et al. since he teaches a threaded layer is beneficial for providing a tight sealing agent.

With respect to claim 8 and 18, wherein the thread layer is wound on said sleeve mounted on a cylinder having a diameter that is 0.05% to 1.0% smaller than the diameter of a cylinder of a printing press upon which said cylindrical printing blanket is to be mounted, with the diameter of said sleeve being equal to or slightly smaller than the diameter of said cylinder of said printing press would be obvious to provide a tight seal for the sleeve.

With respect to claim 14, the printing blanket of Beltzung et al. is filled with a compressible elastomer layer 3 and 5.

With respect to claim 17, the cylinder printing blanket of Beltzung et al. (Fig. 2) has a first or second fabric layers may be comprised of multiple layers of fabric laminated together.

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beltzung et al. in view of Okubo et al. as applied to claim 8, and further in view of Kobler et al.

Beltzung et al. as modified by Okubo et al. teaches all that is claimed, as discussed in the above rejection of claims 8,10,14 and 15, except for the sleeve having a seam which is sealed to prevent liquid from permeating through, it is sealed by filling same with an elastomer and it is sealed by applying a cover there over. Kobler et al. teaches a sleeve having a seam (Fig. 1, 2) which is sealed to prevent liquid from permeating through, it is sealed by filling (8) it with an elastomer and it is sealed by applying a cover (12) there over. To have a sleeve having a seam, which is sealed to prevent liquid from permeating through, is sealed by filling it with an elastomer and is sealed by applying a

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cover there over is obvious in view of the teachings of Kobler et al. It would have been obvious to modify Beltzung et al. as modified by Okubo et al. to have a sleeve having a seam which is sealed to prevent liquid from permeating as taught by Kobler et al.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marvin P. Crenshaw whose telephone number is (703) 308-0797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



MPC
April 21, 2003



REN YAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER